

Message Text

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47

ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

666

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NE: PFCANNEY:SK

APPROVED BY: EUR/NE: JJCROWLEY

----- 123851

R 211621Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 3757

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275977

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 9740 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN LISBON LONDON MADRID OSLO PARIS ROME AND EC BRUSSELS
19 NOV 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9740

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, AU

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MEETING IN LISBON

REF: VIENNA 9634 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN AND MP
KARL CZERNETZ TOLD LABATT NOVEMBER 18 THAT BUREAU OF
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) WOULD MEET NOVEMBER 29-30
AT LISBON AT INVITATION OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS PARTY.
MAIN PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND
PROPOSALS IN PREPARATION FOR SI CONGRESS IN AUGUST 1976;
HOWEVER, CZERNETZ THOUGHT CENTERPIECE, WHICH MIGHT DRAW
LEADING EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS TO LISBON, WOULD BE
REPORTS BY SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PORTUGUESE AND
SPANISH SOCIALISTS PARTIES ON INTERNAL POLITICAL
SITUATIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

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2. CZERNETZ NOTED THAT SI CONGRESS HAD BEEN POSTPONED

FROM JANUARY 1976 TO FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST BUT VENUE, ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR GENEVA, WAS STILL UNDECIDED. AILING SI PRESIDENT BRUNO PITTERMAN, FOR WHOM CZERNETZ HAS BEEN STANDING IN, HAS INFORMED SI'S BUREAU THAT HE WILL NOT ATTEND CONGRESS. CZERNETZ SAID BOTH HE AND CHANCELLOR KREISKY THOUGHT WILLY BRANDT WOULD BE IDEAL PERSON TO LEAD SI IN PERIOD DURING WHICH THERE IS OBVIOUSLY INCREASING NEED AND DESIRE AMONG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS TO COORDINATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS, E.G. WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, BUT KREISKY'S SOUNDINGS INDICATED BRANDT COULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE INDUCED TO TAKE JOB. CZERNETZ THOUGHT THIS WAS POSSIBLY RESULT OF PITTERMAN'S CLUMSINESS SOME MONTHS AGO IN PUBLICLY SUGGESTING BRANDT WITHOUT HAVING CLEARED FIRST WITH SI BUREAU OR BRANDT. OTHER POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR PITTERMAN WERE NORWAY'S TRYGVE BRATTELI, WHO SEEMS FIRMLY OPPOSED, AND DENMARK'S JENS OTTO KRAG, WHO CZERNETZ IMPLIED MAY BE TIRING OF HIS JOB AS EC AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IN WAKE OF FRENCH PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS RE COUNCILS OF MINISTERS THAT HAS LEFT EC COMMISSION SO LITTLE AUTHORITY. MOST LIKELY PROSPECT, HOWEVER, WAS IRELAND'S CONNOR CRUZE O'BRIEN. CZERNETZ SAID SI GENSEC JANITSCHKE MIGHT NOT KEEP HIS JOB AFTER AUGUST SINCE HE HAD EXPOSED HIMSELF INAPPROPRIATELY ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND, UNFORTUNATELY, REMAINS JOURNALIST/PUBLICIST ADDICTED TO SUCH ABSURDITIES AS REPRESENTING HIMSELF PUBLICLY AS "7TH SUCCESSOR TO KARL MARX".

3. CZERNETZ SAID ORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED AT LISBON WOULD BE: CHANGING TRIENNIAL PUBLIC CONGRESS TO BIENNIAL AFFAIR; REESTABLISHING ANNUAL SI GENERAL CONFERENCE AS CLOSED FORUM (HE DEPLORED WAY FINNS HAD MADE PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF IT WHEN THEY WERE HOSTS); AND, HOPEFULLY, PARING SIZE OF BUREAU TO SOME MORE WORKABLE GROUP THAN ITS CURRENT 18 MEMBERS. BUCHANAN

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE275977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE: PFCANNEY:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-0159
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751124/aaaaaupn.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENNA 9634
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MEETING IN LISBON
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XG, AU, SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, (CZERNETZ, KARL)
To: STOCKHOLM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006